

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the draft March and April 2018 Agendas ([Agenda Item G.5, Attachment 2](#), [Agenda Item G.5, Attachment 3](#)), Year-at-a-Glance ([Agenda Item G.5, Attachment 1](#)), and Groundfish Workload Priorities ([Agenda Item G.5, Attachment 4](#)) contained in the advanced briefing book and provide comments below. This report also contains our comments on other items for which we are involved.

### **Overwinter Analysis**

The GMT will leave this meeting with the information needed to begin analysis on routine and new management measures for the 2019-2020 biennium. In June 2017, the Council approved a schedule for implementation of the 2019-2020 harvest specifications and management measures ([Agenda Item F.7, Attachment 1, June 2017](#)). This schedule sets the timing for analysis and review that is needed to make progress towards a January 1, 2019 implementation. The GMT will be working with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Council staff on modeling, analysis, and documentation towards meeting those deadlines.

### **Pre-March and April GMT Webinars**

Currently, the GMT cannot anticipate if a pre-Council meeting webinar is needed in order to prepare for the March and/or April Council meetings. Over winter, the GMT will assess workload, and will notify Council staff if it is determined that a pre-Council meeting webinar would be beneficial. If a pre-Council meeting GMT webinar is needed for the March and/or April Council meetings, the GMT chair and vice chair will work with Council staff to make sure that it gets scheduled and is properly publicly noticed. This includes continued consideration of the salmon consultation, essential fishing habitat (EFH) /rockfish conservation area (RCA), and individual fishing quota sablefish issues.

### **March**

The GMT is scheduled to meet at the March Council meeting from Friday, March 9, 2018 until business has concluded on Tuesday, March 13, 2018. The GMT would like to either receive a webinar on the ecosystem agenda items prior to the meeting, or to time our arrival such that we have time to receive a presentation, have discussion, and write statements on the ecosystem agenda items. The GMT will also be covering the following agenda items: whiting treaty implementation, initial stock assessment plans and the terms of reference, catch share 5-year review follow-on actions range of alternatives, fisheries in 2019-2020 update, and inseason including 2018 midwater trawl gear exempted fishing permit check-in. If gear switching is added to the March agenda, we suggest it be as a stand-alone item.

## **April**

The GMT would like to note that the briefing book deadline for the April meeting is just a day or two after the conclusion of the March Council meeting. Therefore, any items needed for the advanced briefing book would need to be completed prior to, or during the March Council meeting. The GMT's priority for the April meeting will be to work on the 2019-2020 biennial harvest specifications and management measures agenda items.

## **EFH/RCA**

The GMT may not have much bandwidth to provide substantive input on the EFH/RCA agenda item at the April meeting, given the workload required to analyze harvest specifications and management measures. The GMT requests to be notified as soon as the project team determines if the preliminary draft and analysis will not be ready in time for consideration at the April meeting, so we can update our planning accordingly. If the report is available, the GMT requests either an additional day at the March meeting, or a webinar to receive an informational overview from the EFH/RCA project team, to jump start reviewing the document. This should allow the GMT to discuss the topic meaningfully and provide input.

Given the above, and the draft agenda for this meeting, the GMT thinks the remaining items currently on the agenda will be a manageable workload, as long as additional items are not added in the future.

The GMT recommends the Council remove the "Flexibility in Annual Catch Limit Management" as a stand-alone item on the Council's year-at-a-glance agenda. Based on actions at this meeting, the Council moved this to the omnibus prioritization process.

## **ESA Seabird Consultation**

The timeline for consideration of seabird incidental take statement has the expectation to have rules in place for 2020. This would require a three-meeting process to start in April 2018, allowing ~1 year for rule implementation.

PFMC  
11/20/17